

nurses licensed and employed in North Carolina. Both RN and LPN staff nurses were randomly selected from the three geographic regions of the state based on their home address in the license renewal files maintained by the North Carolina Board of Nursing as of April 1, 2001. A total of 713 usable surveys were returned for an overall response rate of 63%.<sup>1</sup> Additional reports that explore other topics covered by the study are available on the Center's web site at [www.nurseNC.org](http://www.nurseNC.org).

To meet the definition of staff nurse used in this study, the respondents must have been employed in nursing at the time they completed the survey, providing direct patient care as part of their nursing position, and employed in the following kinds of positions: staff nurse / general duty nurse, office nurse, home care nurse, or charge nurse / team leader. However, they could be employed in any type of setting. A total of 599 respondents (324 RN staff nurses and 275 LPN staff nurses) met these criteria and are included in the analyses in this report.

Chart 1 shows what percentage of these staff nurses were employed in each of the different types of practice settings. Those settings can be summarized into three general types: hospital in-patient units, residential nursing homes and rehabilitation facilities (long term care), and community settings (such as medical practices, home health, public clinics or health departments, occupational health sites, etc.). These groupings are used in some of the analyses that follow.

Chart 1. Percent of respondent RN and LPN staff nurses in various employment settings.

